

Claims:

1. A process for the preparation of a crystalline alkali metal salt of amoxycillin is provided, in which:
 - a suspension of an amine salt of amoxycillin is formed in a first organic solvent,
 - the suspension is admixed with a second organic solvent and the amine salt is caused to enter solution in the so-formed mixture of first and second organic solvents,
 - the amine salt is reacted with a salifying compound of the alkali metal,
 - the so-formed alkali metal salt of amoxycillin is isolated from the solution as a crystalline product.
2. A process according to claim 1 wherein the crystalline alkali metal salt of amoxycillin prepared by the process is crystalline sodium amoxycillin.
3. A process according to claim 1 wherein the amine salt of amoxycillin is a triethylamine, diethylamine or diisopropylamine salt of amoxycillin.
4. A process according to claim 1 wherein the first organic solvent is a (C1-51-5)alkyl (C1-51-5)alkanoate ester
5. A process according to claim 4 wherein the (C1-51-5) alkyl (C1-51-5)alkanoate ester is methyl acetate.
6. A process according to claim 1 wherein the suspension of the amine salt is formed by first forming a suspension of amoxycillin trihydrate in the first solvent then admixing the amine with this suspension so that the amine reacts with the amoxycillin to form the amine salt.
7. A process according to claim 1 wherein the second organic solvent is a (C1-51-5)alcohol.
8. A process according to claim 7 wherein the (C1-51-5)alcohol is methyl alcohol.

9. A process according to claim 1 wherein the salifying compound is a sodium salt of an organic compound.

10. A process according to claim 9 wherein the salifying compound is a sodium salt of a (C1-51-5)alcohol or a salt of a (C1-121-5) carboxylic acid.

11. A process according to claim 8 wherein the salifying compound is sodium 2-ethylhexanoate.

12. A process according to claim 1 wherein the reaction of the amine salt is carried out by admixing the solution of the amine salt with a solution of the salifying compound.

13. A process according to claim 10 wherein the salifying compound is in solution in a solvent mixture which comprises the first and second organic solvents.

14. A process according to claim 13 wherein the solvent mixture is a methyl acetate : methanol mixture comprising predominantly methyl acetate.

15. A process according to claim 12 wherein the solution of the amine salt is added to the solution of the salifying compound.

16. A crystalline alkali metal salt of amoxycillin being the product of a process according to any one of the preceding claims.